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US church official gets prison in landmark abuse case

NEW YORK (AFP) - The highest-ranking US church official to be convicted of covering up child sex allegations, Philadelphia Monsignor William Lynn, was sentenced to between three and six years in prison yesterday.

Lynn, whose job it was to investigate reports of abuse in the archdiocese from 1992 to 2004, was found guilty last month of one count of child endangerment.

Defense lawyers had pushed for Lynn to be spared prison, but Judge Teresa Sarmina imposed close to the maximum sentence of between three-and-a-half and seven years.

"It was three to six years," an official at the court in Philadelphia told AFP, confirming the tough sentence.

Lynn, 61, who took the witness stand for three days during his 10-week trial, was not charged with molesting chil-

dren, but rather with covering up the crimes of priests who did. He argued that he may have been out of his depth, but had never acted criminally.

Victims' groups hailed the verdict as a major step forward as a court had acknowledged that someone in Lynn's position had endangered a child.

The trial, the first in the United States involving such a senior official in the Catholic Church, also centered on two more Philadelphia priests.

Reverend James Brennan, who was suspended from his duties as a priest, stood accused of attempting to rape a teenaged boy in the 1990's. The jury was hung over the charges dealing with Brennan, who will not face a new trial.

Defrocked priest Edward Avery pleaded guilty on the eve of trial. Avery was sentenced to between 2.5 and five years in prison.

Warm welcome for the Aruban delegation at Olympic Village in London

"Sacrifice and hard work is what has brought each one of you to the Olympic Village today, you are the best of your country. Each athlete will experience moments of joy, sadness, and disappointment, but each of these moments will stay imprinted in your memory and remembered for the rest of your lives. Welcome to the Olympic Games of London 2012," were the welcoming words of the Mayor of the Olympic Games Village Sir Charles Allen on Monday to,



at the London Games by four athletes:

* **Carl Henriquez:** Weightlifting;

* **Jemal Le Grand:** Swimming (Men's 100m freestyle);

* **Daniella van den Berg:** Swimming (Women's 800m Freestyle);

* **Jayne Mata:** Judo.

After the ceremony the Aruban delegation took pictures with Mayor Charles Allen.

among others, the Aruban delegation. A spectacular colorful welcome ceremony was prepared for the delegations.

The Aruban delegation stood out in their beautiful red suits, beige trousers and unique hats. The delegation was accompanied by a representative of the Dutch Embassy in London, Mr. Westhof. After playing our national anthem, 'Aruba Dushi Tera' delegation head Mr. Bryan Lopes presented the Mayor, Sir Charles Allen with a gift.

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Search is still on for short or long term foster parents



The "Centro di Famia di Criansa Arubano" (Aruba Foster Home Center) is continuing their campaign to the community under the caption "Mi mester di Bo" ("I need you"). The goal of this campaign is to reach more persons who may be willing to help a vulnerable child who deserves love and care. "Centro Famia di Criansa Arubano" is an integral part of the "Guia Mi" Foundation and attempts to work in consortium with different other institutions such as "Imelda Hof," "Casa Cuna," "Voogdijraad, Dept of Social Affairs," "Stichting voor de Handicapten Aruba" and "Centro Ortopedagogico."

Foster care simply means that a child for some reason or other is not able to live in their

own home. This may be for a short period or for the long term and they need a place to live and someone to care for them.

The CFCA coordinates and manages the foster parents and guides the process for a person or family to become a foster parent. Along with this, they ensure that the child receives quality care and that the guidance is very good. CFCA is looking for foster parents who would like to help a child. These children, in most cases, are in an intern boarding facility and will not be getting the attention, warmth and care that a family can and will offer them.

CFCA is looking for foster parents for small children but also for children somewhat

older. The ages range between 0 to 18 years of age. These children also deserve to have a family, a person or family that can motivate them to strive ahead.

The CFCA recognizes that there are various types of foster parents, but right now they have a scarcity of foster parents, particularly during this time considered one of crisis. Families in the time of crisis are very important because sometimes a child cannot stay in his home, nor can he be admitted in a Foster Center either. These families give the child a place to live for a time (could be 2 weeks, 2 months) but never longer than 6 months.

Anyone interested in becoming a foster parent, simply call for more information at telephone: 582-0088 or send an email to: cfca@setarnet.aw. You can also visit their website at: www.famiacriansa.org.

SETAR N.V. and WWE invite everyone to participate in their Summer Slam 2012 wrestling trivia



SEROE BLANCO -- On August 19 World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) will organize its biggest wrestling event, the 25th Summer Slam 2012. The event takes place at the Staples Center in California.

Here on Aruba all wrestling fans can participate in a trivia that consists of 10 questions

related to WWE. SETAR will pick out 5 finalists who have the chance to win the big prize: a karaoke machine and other Summer Slam goodies.

To participate: just go on SETAR's website www.setar.aw and click on the slide of Summer Slam Trivia.

Jim Hepple presents Minister Oduber with a book celebrating 50 years of the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association



To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the creation of the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism

Association a beautiful coffee table book recounting the history of the Caribbean's hotel

and tourism industry for the past 50 years was produced.

Featuring many famous hoteliers, amongst them Ike Cohen, Ed Malone and Ewald Biemans all from Aruba, the book contains many interesting pictures and stories from the last century.

CEO of AHATA Jim Hepple is seen here presenting the book, entitled "The Caribbean: From Pirates to Hoteliers" to Minister of Tourism Otmar Oduber. The book can be seen at AHATA's offices and is available for purchase for US\$39.00 plus shipping.

For more information please call AHATA's office at 582-2607.

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Aruban beauty wins “Queen Summer Carnival” title

The lovely 22 year Aruban, Joanne Lopes, representing the Kingdoms Under The Sun carnival group was selected winner of the title “2012 Queen Summer Carnival” last Saturday in the city of Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Next week during the Summer Carnival parade, Joanne and her Kingdoms Under The Sun group will have the honor of leading this big parade.

The jury who selected Joanne was particularly impressed by her personal beauty and her lovely carnival costume, as well as for her professional dance ability and charisma with the audience.

One juror observed, referring to Joanne... “that is how a queen should be, innovative and at the same time a bit traditional.”

The dynamic and energetic Joanne Lopes was born on Aruba and is currently residing in Holland because of her studies. She is studying Tourism and Recreation in the city of Amsterdam. Currently she is combining her studies with a part-time job in a restaurant and practices her talents in dif-

ferent ways.

Joanne is in the final stages of releasing a CD of her saxophone music, she is a gifted saxophonist. She also dances in different video clips and for brass band during Battle of Drums. She has also acted in television series such as GTST and Spangas...and she models!

Joanne says that her main passion is carnival. “From my birth I loved carnival. And, with the 2012 Queen of Summer Carnival title, I want to help improve summer carnival not only here in Holland but also internationally and throughout my reign. I want to help carnival become more beautiful, bigger and get more recognition. I am carnival,” says Joanne.



Joanne’s Group, Kingdoms under the Sun is very pleased that Joanne’s win gives them a fourth time win of the Queen of Summer Carnival title.

Continued on page 4

No austerity cuts for Dutch royals

QUEEN BEATRIX of the Netherlands says she sees “no reason” to reduce the allowance of €830,000 she receives from the state every year – despite new research showing the Dutch royals have overtaken the British monarchy as the most expensive royal family in western Europe.

The queen’s refusal to accept less from the hard-pressed public purse comes just two days after Spain’s King Juan Carlos said he would accept a 7 percent cut in his salary in line with reductions imposed on public sector workers.

The annual report on the cost of European heads of state, by Prof Herman Matthijs of Ghent University, Belgium, shows the cost to the taxpayer of the Dutch royal family is €39.4 million. This includes €18 million in “personal costs” and the queen’s working allowance of €830,000, but does not include the multimillion-euro security cost.

The bill for subsidising Queen Beatrix (74) and her children, including heir to the throne Crown-Prince Willem Alexander, his wife Princess

Maxima and their three young daughters, Amalia, Alexia and Ariane, is roughly four times that for keeping the Spanish royal family, which costs between €9 million and €10 million.

While King Juan Carlos’s son and heir, Prince Felipe, will also take a pay cut of 7 per cent, in the Netherlands Crown-Prince Willem Alexander will follow his mother’s lead and draw the same allowance as last year, although the exact breakdown is not specified.

The report also points out that the financial burden on the Dutch taxpayer, already facing cuts in public services and salaries of €13 billion next year, is proportionately higher – because the population of the Netherlands is only one-third the size of Spain’s and a quarter the size of Britain’s.

In the Netherlands, although Queen Beatrix’s popularity is consistently high, she has been at odds with parliament, which voted earlier this year to remove her last remaining political power – the right to become involved in the formation of coalition governments.



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Derwin Kemp introduces new praise CD



Popular local musician, Derwin Kemp has been laboring on the production of a new CD for the past 2 years which he has dedicated to songs of praise...his CD is titled *Un Canto na Señor*.

According to Derwin, "I want my CD to bring positive messages for the community."

Derwin says that he was inspired to produce a song of worship but did not know how to begin nor if his songs would be accepted by the community. He said: "when I go to church I am always taking notes on paper. When the word of God is preached I take important notes so that I could achieve what I want and use my notes to form the basis for the beginning of a song."

My first song was "Señor sana mi," says Derwin, and that was what I needed at the moment." Derwin, set out to get help from Dimitri Frans for the arrangement of his songs. Together they worked on the production of different types of happy music. Derwin says that he used his musical strategy to draw his audience to make his songs attractive.

Derwin has been singing for the Aruban community for the past 15 years and he believes that his praise album will be widely accepted and is very appropriate.

"I am happy to know the Word of God through songs and the Word," according to Kemp. He reports that people often ask him, "... Kemp, have you joined a religion?" Derwin says that his response is like he sings in song number 7 on his CD...it is not religion, but a relationship between you and God.

Songs on Derwin's CD are, among others: Hala mi baranca, Dilanti Su wowo, Bo ta grandi o mi Dios, Watching over me, Señor sana mi, Hala mi baranca balada and Hisa bo man y alabe.

Nature's Discount is a happy sponsor of Derwin's CD and offers a 10% discount to its members. Derwin has been active for 15 years in the realm of music having songs and played for bands such as BMW and Youth Extreme. This year he won the 2012 King of Calypso title.

Nature's Discount, where you will find Derwin's CD is located at Seroe Blanco 19 in front of the APFA building.

Aruba's Dr. Viana receives international recognition

My Top 40 at 40: Making the First Half Count

Kari Loya. XK Productions (www.xkproductions.com), \$24.95 hardcover (252p) ISBN 978-0-9847637-0-2

In this entertaining nonfiction collection, voice-over artist Loya celebrates his 40th birthday with 40 wide-ranging tales from his own life. During his teens and early 20s, the author searched for the elusive J.D. Salinger on his Dartmouth College campus, parlayed a family connection into an internship with Nike at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, and joined Teach for America to help socio-economically disadvantaged first- and second-graders learn to read. In his late 20s he lost his prudishness and stuffed himself into a flimsy Speedo in a beach town near Rio de Janeiro, and hosted a pig roast—feasting on the animal's brains—after completing a triathlon in New Zealand. During his 30s, Loya celebrated a three-day James Bond theme wedding in Argentina, enjoyed an epic six-day, guided horseback crossing of the Andes, and partied with President Obama at the Southern Inaugural Ball. These stories present enthusiastic, energetic, heartfelt if pedestrian musings from a man in his prime who always tries to enjoy life to its fullest.

and rarified experiences—will provide readers the incentive to source ingredients, select cheese and wine, and adapt recipes to local seasonal fare. The cookbook's artful design invites readers to savor tempting food photographs, study sidebars on cheese, cured meats, and wine, and read longer sections about the author's collaborators, branded ventures, and method of growing a business. Together with her rousing commitment to Sonoma, the author's passion will likely spark readers to create their own culinary treasures.

★ P.O.W.: A Sailor's Story

Ralph C. Poness, edited by Ralph J. Poness. Vantage (www.vantagepress.com), \$16.95 paper (243p) ISBN 978-0-533-16447-9

Ralph C. Poness, who died in 2002, spent most of WWII in Japanese prisoner-of-war camps. Although the memories of WWII brought him "anxiety and sometimes great pain," he began to write about his experiences as a POW. Telling these grim stories, however, became "almost unbearable" for him. In 1991, he wrote, "The story of my capture at the fall of Corregidor Island and of my internment by the Japanese for almost four years is one of brutality, degradation, torture, and witnessing agonizing death." He describes the chaos in the Philippines

Prescriptions from Paradise: Introduction to Biocompatible Medicine

Carlos M. Viana. Healing Spirit Press (www.healingspiritpress.com), \$25 paperback (240p) ISBN 978-0-9789920-4-0

In this compendium, clinical nutritionist Viana claims the requirements of socialized medicine and insurance companies result in mainstream physicians offering generic, ineffective care, and offers an alternate approach to healing. In an appendix to his alphabetically listed guide to treatments, health concerns, and life-threatening illness, he explains the concept of biocompatible medicine, a healing modality he developed at his medical center in Aruba to provide optimal, personalized treatments that are not recognized or not covered by insurers. Those unfamiliar with Viana's complex philosophy should read this section before reviewing his recommendations. Certified in traditional Chinese medicine, addictionology, and colon hydrotherapy, Viana draws on myriad holistic and traditional practices for his three-step program of detoxification, nutritional therapy, and lifestyle changes, placing emphasis on oral health, stress relief, and pH balance. His methods of reducing inflammation and

30 PUBLISHERS WEEKLY ■ JULY 9, 2012

Last week Dr. Viana visited Curacao where he was a Guest Speaker for Fundashon Kurasow Sanashon to talk about his "3 step" to good health he named Biocompatible Medicine. Using a holistic approach to health, biocompatible physicians employ therapies that support and promote the body's natural healing process, leading to the highest state of wellness. During that same week "Publishers Weekly"—read by most if not all retail booksellers and librarians in the US—printed a review of the book "Prescription from Paradise."

Aruban beauty wins "Queen Summer Carnival" title

Continued from page 3

This year their theme is Rome and Joanne is their 'Empress of Rome.'

The 28th Edition of Summer Carnival begins Friday evening with the final of the 'Battle of Drums.' At midnight Summer Carnival 2012 will be officially opened. The big parade will be Saturday from 1:00 in the afternoon in the center of Rotterdam. About one million people are expected to come out to watch this event. Summer

Carnival began in Holland back in 1984 upon the initiative of a group of Arubans and Antilleans who were missing their carnival at home.

The Prime Minister sent this message of congratulations to Joanne from Aruba: "Dear Joanne, congratulations with your title of 2012 Queen of Summer Carnival. This is a fantastic achievement and all of Aruba is very proud. With your inspiring

personality you're not only an example for Aruban youth, but also an ambassador for Aruba in Holland. I trust you will enjoy the honorable title from the start of the grand parade on Saturday which we will certainly be watching from here at home. We hope to be able to welcome you back to Aruba soon and to thank you personally for the positive way you represented our island."

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Aruba's champion baseball team ready for World Series



Our Junior League Baseball team who recently returned with the title of Champion from the Latin American games are preparing diligently for the World Series coming up in three weeks. On Thursday evening during the weekly popular Carubbian Festival in San Nicolas they were presented to the general public. The elite team was received with loud applause and shouts of acclamation and motivation from the audience. They were introduced as the team to represent the entire Latin American conti-

nent at the World Series Little League Baseball Junior League in Michigan, USA.

The Minister of Sports, who introduced them, remarked that they have already won in the past, but not in the Junior League. However, the group is well known and already several "scouts" have their eyes on them, and will be watching them closely during this particular game, according to the Minister.

He went on to say that ... "these young people are baseball players of high ca-

liber. A few of them will end up in the Major Leagues."

Minister Visser chided with the group by saying that ... "he has an agreement with 9 commissions, among them, the sports psychologist and sports medicine that they will do their utmost to make sure these young people "make it happen" in Michigan." But, truthfully, Visser stated that what is true, is that should they come back home as champions of the World Series that there will be something very big for them here when they return."

Registration of all livestock and other farmers by Santa Rosa

PIEDRA PLAT- Santa Rosa, Aruba's Agricultural, Fisheries and Livestock Department, is informing the general public about their official registration program.

Mrs. Bareño of Santa Rosa is telephoning all livestock breeders who are registered with the Department so as to facilitate the registration process. However, those who have never been registered at Santa Rosa or who are new livestock breeders or new farmers to please contact the office by calling telephone 585-8102 and ask for Mrs. Glenda Bareño so that they can be registered. This is a registration for all breeders of whatever kind of animal. It also includes those who have beehives, chickens, ducks or rabbits, etc.

Registration is important so that the Department can have a better view of the exact amount of livestock breeders and farmers and what types of animals are being raised on the island. As well as to have better knowledge of what exactly is being cultivated and produced on the island by our



farmers. This, undoubtedly, will provide for a much better planning with respect to matters pertaining to DIP and allocating grounds for cultivation.

All collected information will remain confidential, but it is important to have all information actualized and up to date. This will help the Department to better serve the interest of each farmer and livestock breeder.

If there are questions regarding this information, please feel free to call or visit the Department personally and they will provide you with detailed explanation concerning the official registry. The Department is grateful for the many that have already responded and have registered by telephone. The number to call is 585-8102.

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Syria rebels say chemical weapons moved to borders

DAMASCUS (AFP) - Rebels accused strongman Bashar al-Assad yesterday of moving chemical weapons to Syria's borders, a day after his beleaguered regime said it would use its stockpiles if attacked.

Helicopter gunships strafed rebel neighbourhoods of second city Aleppo, as heavy fighting forced the closure of a third of the shopping malls of the commercial capital, pro-government media said.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said at least 108 people were killed in violence yesterday across the country.

The rebel Free Syrian Army said the chemical arsenal had been moved in a bid to pressure the world community, much of which has called for Assad to step aside in the face of the more than 16-month uprising against his rule.

"According to our information, the regime began moving its stocks of weapons of mass destruction several months ago... with the goal of putting pressure on the region and the

international community," said the FSA.

"We also reveal that Assad has transferred some of these weapons and equipment for mixing chemical components to airports on the border," it added.

Foreign ministry spokesman Jihad Makdissi acknowledged on Monday that Syria has chemical weapons and said the regime would use them if attacked by outsiders, although not against its own civilians.

"Syria will not use any chemical or other unconventional weapons against its civilians, and will only use them in case of external aggression," he said, in remarks that triggered a torrent of condemnation, including from ally Russia.

US President Barack Obama warned Assad not to make the "tragic mistake" of unleashing chemical weapons.

"Given the regime's stockpile of chemical weapons, we will continue to make it clear to Assad and those around him that the world is watching,"

said Obama.

Moscow said it "would like to underline that Syria joined" a Geneva protocol on the non-use of such weapons and "presumes that the Syrian authorities will continue to rigorously abide by its assumed international obligations".

Israel said there was no cause for alarm.

"At the moment, the Syrian regime is fighting for its very existence, but all of its chemical weapons and its weapons of mass destruction are under full control of the regime," defence ministry official Amos Gilad said.

Israel's armed forces chief added: "As of this moment, Assad has control over the stockpiles," and "as far as we know, they have not yet passed into negative hands, but it doesn't mean it won't happen."

Seven countries join anti-soot and methane campaign

PARIS (AFP)-- A coalition of countries and agencies seeking to curb Earth-warming pollutants like soot released by wood-fired ovens and methane from oil extraction, yesterday welcomed seven new members to its fold.

At a meeting in Paris, the Clean Air and Climate Coalition, launched by US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in February, said Britain, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy and Jordan were its latest members.

They joined the United States, Bangladesh, Canada, Colombia, the European Commission, Ghana, Japan, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Sweden, the World Bank, the UN Environment Program (UNEP) and the Stockholm Environment Institute -- bringing to 21 the number of members of the voluntary coalition.

"The idea is to come together around a network to scale up actions that could re-

duce these short-lived pollutants in the near term," United States deputy special envoy for climate change Jonathan Pershing told journalists.

Short-lived pollutants like black carbon or soot, methane and fluorinated gases called HFCs can potentially be eliminated from the atmosphere in a much shorter period of time than CO2, which is the main target of international efforts to curb global warming but also the cause of much political bickering.

Potentially deadly soot is emitted from brick-baking kilns and wood-fired stoves used in developed countries, diesel engines in trucks, cars and electricity generators, and the burning of organic waste.

It causes respiratory diseases in people and smothers crops, and settles in the Arctic where it absorbs the sun's heat, warms up the atmosphere and contributes to glacier melt.



ISRAEL, Tel Aviv : AFP photo shows several Israeli protestors gathering during a demonstration against African migrants in the city of Tel Aviv yesterday. The Jewish state says it is hosting more than 60,000 illegal immigrants from Africa.



CHINA, Chongqing : This picture taken on July 23, 2012 shows residents using a boat to make their way along flooded street in Chongqing. Meanwhile, Beijing's propaganda chief has ordered Chinese media to stick to good-news about weekend floods the the country's capital, according to a report on July 24, 2012, after the death of at least 37 people sparked fierce criticism of the government. (AFP PHOTO)

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Probe of border shooting by US agents sought

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The Inter-American Human Rights Commission yesterday urged the United States to investigate whether US Border Patrol agents used excessive force in the shooting death of a Mexican youth.

The commission, a body of the Organization of American States, expressed concern "that this is not the first time there has been an incident of this kind, in which excessive and disproportionate force is said to have been used."

The commission's request involved the July death of Juan Pablo Santillan who was shot by US agents near the international border bridge linking Matamoros, Mexico and Brownsville, Texas.

The US Border Patrol said

agents opened fire after rocks were thrown at them and they observed a person aiming a gun at them from the Mexican side.

The commission called on "the US authorities to investigate these actions, in particular whether the death of Mr Santillan could have been a consequence of the excessive use of lethal force by Border Patrol agents."

The Mexican government condemned Santillan's shooting and also demanded that US authorities investigate.

Another Mexican youth was killed in 2010 on the Mexican side of the border in Ciudad Juarez from shots fired by a US Border Patrol agent. A US judge rejected a Mexican extradition request in that case.

British PM's ex-aide charged with hacking, Jolie targeted

LONDON (AFP) - British police yesterday charged Prime Minister David Cameron's ex-media chief Andy Coulson with phone hacking as the scandal lapped at the door of Downing Street.

Former tabloid editor Rebekah Brooks will also be charged at a later date, police confirmed.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) said eight current or former employees of Rupert Murdoch's now defunct News of the World tabloid would answer hacking charges, which carries a maximum sentence of two years in prison.

In total, police issued 19 separate charges of conspiring to illegally intercept the voice-mails of some 600 people, in-

cluding Hollywood stars Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie and Jude Law as well as politicians and crime victims.

Prosecutors said the other people targeted included England and Manchester United footballer Wayne Rooney and ex-Beatle Paul McCartney.

Others charged include Stuart Kuttner, the News of the World's former managing editor, former news editor Greg Miskiw, former head of news Ian Edmondson, former chief reporter Neville Thurlbeck, and reporter James Weatherup. All eight will appear in court in London on August 16, according to the CPS.

Australian-born media tycoon Murdoch, 81, was forced to close the News of the World a year ago amid a storm of reve-

Hudson's brother-in-law gets life in family killings

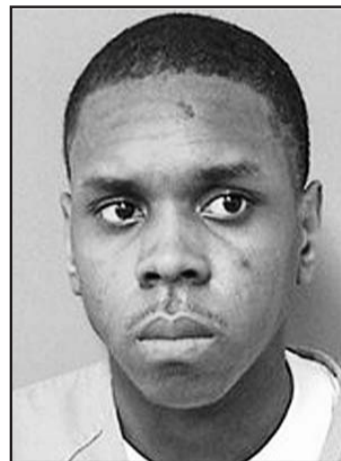
CHICAGO (AFP) - Oscar-winning actress Jennifer Hudson wiped away tears as her brother-in-law was sentenced to life in prison by a judge in Illinois yesterday for slaying her mother, brother and young nephew in 2008.

William Balfour, the estranged husband of Hudson's sister Julia, was convicted in May of killing his in-laws in October 2008 and then hiding his stepson's body to try to cover up his crimes.

"Your soul is as barren as dark space," Judge Charles Burns told Balfour as he imposed the maximum sentence possible. "You have the heart of an arctic night."

State law requires a mandatory minimum of life in prison with no chance of parole for those convicted of multiple murders.

Burns said that in the interest of justice, the three life sentences should be served consecutively, and he also imposed a further 120 years for



William Balfour

charges of kidnapping, home invasion and possession of a stolen vehicle.

Balfour, who did not testify or show any emotion at trial, made a brief statement prior to the sentencing in which he offered his "condolences to the family" and proclaimed his innocence.

"My deepest prayer goes out to Julian King," he said of his seven-year-old stepson.

"I loved him and I still love

him."

Hudson, who did not testify at the sentencing hearing, shook her head in disgust at his statement. Another woman rushed out of the courtroom, quietly sobbing and muttering, "I hate him."

The only victim impact statement came from Julian's father, who spoke of his pain and rage at the loss of his son.

"It was like a chunk of my heart was ripped out," Gregory King told the court. "I will never understand William Balfour's senseless, horrific acts."

Burns lashed out at Balfour for daring to proclaim his love for a boy who he said had likely looked up to him until the moment his stepfather shot him in the head.

"The fact that you tell us in open court that you love that child is an insult to all of us," Burns said, his voice thick with emotion. "I don't think you have one ounce of remorse in your soul."

Firefighters bring Spain blaze under control

FIGUERES (AFP) - Spanish firefighters, aided by weaker winds and cooler temperatures, yesterday brought under control a huge wildfire which killed four people and charred thousands of hectares.

"The good news is that the wildfire that started in La Junquera was brought under control today," said Felip Puig, interior minister of the northeastern Catalonia region where the fire broke out Sunday near the French border.

"We are going to continue working still for two or three more days but at the moment the perimeter of the fire has been stabilized," he told AFP in the town of Figueres.

The fire, which officials be-

lieve was likely caused by a discarded cigarette butt, has ravaged over 14,000 hectares (35,000 acres), devouring tall trees and leaving charred earth and flocks of dead sheep in its wake.

About 1,500 people including emergency and military

personnel and local volunteers battled the blaze yesterday, backed by 25 French and Spanish aircraft.

Water-bombing planes were grounded Monday because of high winds.

Four people have been killed since the fire began.

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Health & Living

AIDS cure may have two main pathways: experts



UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibé addresses the opening of the 2012 International AIDS Conference in Washington DC.

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Investigators are looking into two main paths toward a cure for AIDS, based on the stunning stories of a small group of people around the world who have been able to overcome the disease.

Despite progress in treating millions of people globally with antiretroviral drugs, experts say a cure is more crucial than ever because the rate of HIV infections is outpacing the world's ability to medicate people.

"For every person who starts antiretroviral therapy, two new individuals are infected with HIV," Javier Martinez-Picado of the IrsiCaixa AIDS Research Institute in Spain told the International AIDS Conference in Washington on Tuesday.

While a cure remains a distant prospect, he said scientists can now "envision a cure from two different perspectives," either by eradicating the virus from a person's body or coax-

ing the body to control the virus on its own.

The most extraordinary case of an apparent cure has been seen in an American man in his 40s, Timothy Ray Brown, also known as the "Berlin patient," who was HIV-positive and developed leukemia.

Brown needed a series of complex medical interventions, including total body irradiation and two bone marrow transplants that came from a compatible donor who had a mutation in the CCR5 gene which acts as a gateway for allowing HIV into the cells.

People without CCR5 appear to be immune to HIV because, in the absence of that doorway, HIV cannot penetrate the cells.

"Five years after the transplant the patient remains off antiretroviral therapy with no viral rebound," said Martinez-Picado.

"This might be the first ever documented patient apparently cured of an HIV infection."

However, while the case has provided scientists with ample pathways for research on future gene therapies, the process that appears to have cured Brown carries a high risk of death and toxicity.

"Unfortunately this type of intervention is so complex and risky it would not be applicable on a large scale," he said.

Brown is scheduled to address the media in Washington in a bid to boost research toward a cure as the US capital hosts the world's largest scientific meeting on HIV/AIDS.

Another group of intense interest is known as the "controllers," or people whose bodies appear to be able to stave off HIV infection.

One type, known as the "elite controllers," test positive for HIV but do not appear to have the virus in the blood, even without treatment. Researchers estimate there may be a few hundred of these people in the world.

Another type is the post-treatment controllers, or people who started therapy early and are able to stop it without seeing the virus rebound. Some five to 15 percent of HIV-infected people may fit this category.

More details on a group of "controllers" in France known as the Visconti Cohort is expected to be released at the meeting this week, as international scientists share their latest data in the hunt for a cure.

Sunbed tanning can lead to cancer for fair-skinned



PARIS (AFP) - Sunbed tanning may put fair-skinned people at risk of developing skin cancer from exposure to high-intensity UVA rays, scientists warned.

The Sun's short-wave UVB rays are well known to cause skin cancer, but the intense UVA radiation from tanning lamps could also present a risk

for light-skinned individuals, a team from the United States, Poland and France reported in the journal Nature Communications.

In tests on shaved lab mice whose results should apply to humans too, UVA interacted with the pigment melanin to cause the most dangerous type of skin cancer, melanoma,

they said.

"We think that this is a second pathway to melanoma," co-author Edward De Fabo, a photobiologist at the George Washington University in Washington, told AFP.

"You have the known UVB pathway (which causes) damage to DNA, and now we are saying that UVA interacting with melanin can cause damage to the DNA and cause melanoma."

Tanning lamps, said De Fabo, emitted up to 12 times the UVA intensity found in natural sunlight -- made up of about 95 percent UVA and five percent UVB.

"The early step in the tanning process is where the real risk lies," he suggested. "That is where the real damage tends to occur, those very early tans

that you get when your skin is fair."

Asked whether he urged people to stay away from tanning salons, he said: "I would advise them definitely not to go."

New safety limits will have to be set, but the specifics required further study, he added.

Very dark-skinned people, like those of African origin, very rarely develop melanoma as their skins do not allow the Sun's ultraviolet (UV) radiation to penetrate the deeper levels of the epidermis.

The tans cultivated by fair people, in contrast, offered very little screening.

"A lot of people go to those sun-tanning parlours because they think when they get a base tan they are great to go out in the high intensity sunlight. That is just not the case," said De Fabo.

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Search for mountain gorillas after DR Congo fighting



KINSHASA (AFP) - Congolese rangers on Tuesday began searching the dense Virunga jungle for six families of critically endangered mountain gorillas who have not been spotted since fighting erupted three months ago.

The regular army has been battling a militia led a renegade general in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, where lies part of the Virunga Massif that is home to the world's largest community of mountain gorillas.

The park's director Emmanuel de Merode said in a statement that the army and the so-called M23 rebels had allowed the rangers to launch search operations for the missing primates in rebel-held territory.

"We are delighted and relieved that all sides in the conflict have recognised the need to protect Congo's only mountain gorillas," de Merode said.

The Virunga volcanoes conservation area straddles DR Congo, Rwanda and Uganda and is home to 480 of the world's 790 remaining mountain gorillas. Their cause was made famous by US zoologist

Dian Fossey, who was murdered in 1985.

The danger of extinction facing the mountain gorillas, whose natural habitat is threatened by expanding human settlements, is increased by chronic conflict and poaching.

"After locating the gorilla families, the park's gorilla monitoring teams will individually identify each member of the family," the statement said.

"Their health status will also be assessed as mountain gorillas are particularly vulnerable to disease," it added.

Former rebels named after the failed March 23, 2009 peace deal which saw them integrate the Congolese army defected this year and regrouped in the Virunga before launching an attack on towns in the eastern Nord-Kivu region.

With Kinshasa and Kigali trading accusations of backing each other's rebels and weeks of conflict displacing hundreds of thousands of civilians since April, DR Congo and Rwanda agreed to the principle of an international force monitoring their border.

Sci-Tech

Afghans embrace social media as NATO pullout nears

KABUL (AFP) - Ten years after the fall of the Taliban, who banned modern technology as un-Islamic, the use of social media in Afghanistan is booming as politicians, warlords and even militants rush to get their message across.

The hardline Islamists who ruled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001 and forbade the use of the Internet, deeming it a Western propaganda tool, now regularly use Twitter to promote their ideas and boast about attacks on NATO forces.

The militants are reluctant to discuss the thinking behind their Internet U-turn, but last year's Arab Spring was a wake-up call to the Muslim world about the ability of social media to organise mass move-

ments and communicate a message outside traditional channels.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said they would still ban the Internet or any other media outlet if they were used for "un-Islamic" purposes, but for now they are happy to use it as a public relations tool.

They have set up an official website featuring propaganda videos depicting their campaigns against US-led NATO forces in Afghanistan, including scenes of attacks and bombings.

Some two million people, less than 10 percent of the population, have computer access to the Internet, officials say, but the figure is rising and many

more have access through the increasing use of smart phones.

The role of social media in the Arab Spring convinced one seasoned Afghan figure, Abdul Rashid Dostum -- a former warlord who now has an official Facebook and Twitter account -- said his aide, Homayoon Haqbeen.

Dostum, who is considered by many as the leader of Afghanistan's Uzbek minority based largely in the north, is also part of the National Front, a major political alliance planning a push for the presidency in 2014 elections.

With a presidential election due in 2014 -- the same year that NATO's 130,000 troops are due to withdraw -- a number of young Afghan MPs have already set up Facebook pages.

Drought, culling hits Australia's feral camels

SYDNEY (AFP) - Australia's feral camel population has dropped by an estimated 250,000 in recent years, but the arid outback is still home to the world's largest wild herd, officials said Tuesday.

The Australian Feral Camel Management Project said about 750,000 camels were thought to roam the country's desert heartland.

"Between 2001 and 2008, it was estimated that there could have been as many as a million feral camels in the outback," said Jan Ferguson, the managing director of Ninti One, which manages the project.

"Since then, however, there has been a major drought, the feral camel management programme has come into effect and population survey techniques have been improved."

Camels, first introduced as pack animals to help early settlers in the 19th century, roam wild in the states of Western Australia, South Australia and Queensland in the east, as well as the Northern Territory.

About 85,000 were culled under a plan to reduce their impact on sensitive areas and

native animals but Ferguson said some populations were still too dense.

Wildlife scientist Glenn Edwards said the latest monitoring, under which about 50 camels fitted with special collars were tracked using satellites, provided a clearer picture of the extensive damage they caused.

"Feral camels can travel 70 kilometres (43 miles) in one day, and hundreds of kilometres within a week, over incredibly harsh terrain," he said.

"We know that when they

herd, they can converge on a natural waterhole used by native animals, and drink it dry within days.

"This has a devastating effect on the local flora and fauna and shows exactly why we need to control the population density of these animals."

With few natural predators and vast sparsely-populated areas in which to roam, feral camels have put pressure on native Australian species by reducing food sources, destroying habitat and spreading disease.



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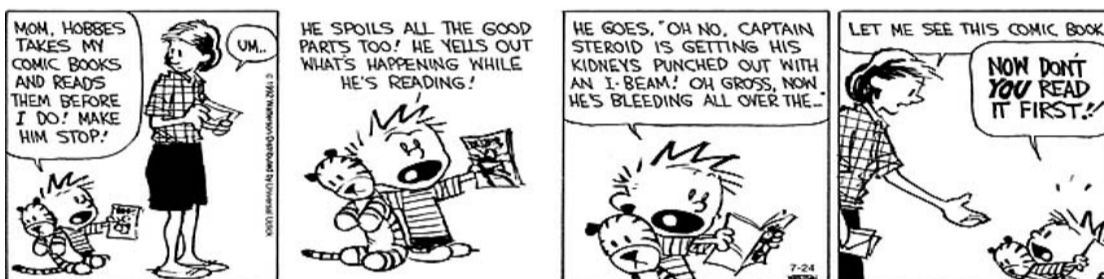
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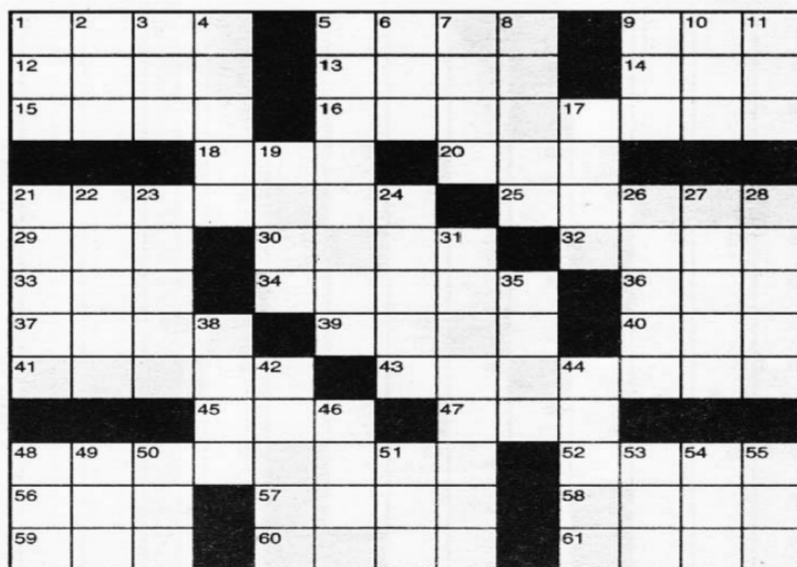
1. Pet rescue org.
5. Alps, e.g. (abbr.)
9. City trains
12. They're blue on most maps
13. Baldwin of "30 Rock"
14. Brit's washroom
15. Eye signal
16. Contemptuous
18. NYC summer setting
20. Born as
21. Ancient Egyptian ruler
25. A retiree's is gold
29. Take too much
30. Banking insurance letters
32. Like some antiques
33. "Design — Dime" (2 wds.)
34. Books of Moses
36. Golfer's score indicator
37. Work hard
39. Fiddling ruler
40. Ike's theater
41. Whether — (2 wds.)
43. Covets
45. Home (abbr.)
47. Superlative suffix
48. Reddish-brown shade
52. Sitcom's

- award
56. Actress Lupino
57. Surrender territory
58. Stallion's mate
59. Poisonous snake
60. Pay attention
61. Irritated state

DOWN

1. Compass pt.
2. Canadian prov.
3. Is able to
4. Inquirer
5. Massive old world mammal
6. Doting
7. Sign illuminator
8. Threaded nail
9. Troll
10. Actor Jacobi
11. Fa follower
17. Within shouting distance
19. Crazy
21. Picture, for short
22. Congressional Medal of —
23. Once more
24. Put on the payroll
26. Slim candle
27. Box

28. Submarine sandwiches
31. Lurched
35. Cartwright son
38. Lonely
42. Give lessons
44. List ingredients
46. "Peter Pan" pirate
48. Undercover gp.
49. What a bouncer checks
50. Forty winks
51. Romantic poem
53. "— alive!"
54. Modern diagnostic tool (abbr.)
55. Nevertheless



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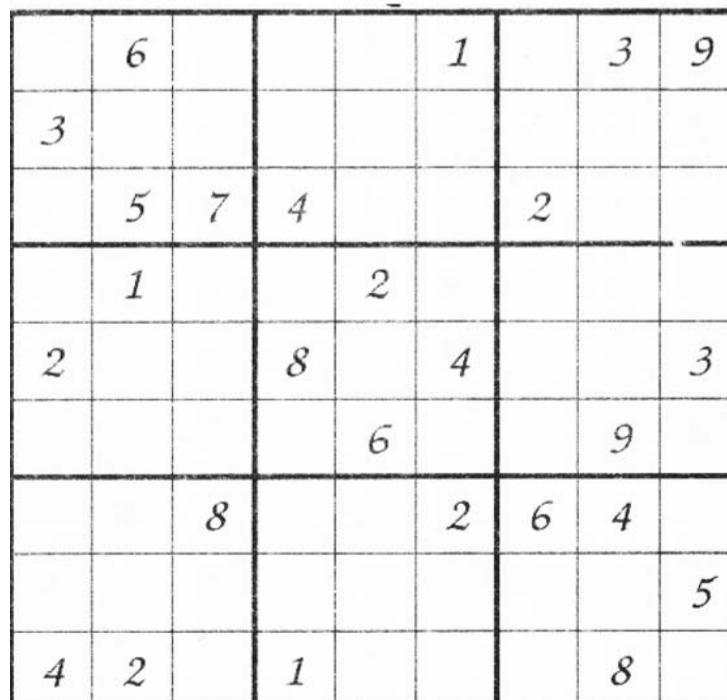
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| 4 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 3 |
| 5 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 7 |
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| 2 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 4 |
| 8 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 2 |
| 3 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 7 |
| 8 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 9 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 3 |
| 6 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 8 |

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

Finance

Tablets to push US electronic sales above \$200 bn

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US consumer electronic sales are expected to top \$200 billion for the first time this year, propelled by strong growth in tablet computers, an industry group said yesterday.

The semiannual forecast released by the Consumer Electronics Association showed an estimated 5.9 percent growth in US sales this year, two points higher than previously projected in January.

The forecast said industry sales will surpass \$206 billion this year, the first time revenues in the United States are expected to top the \$200 billion mark.

Sales growth is projected to continue into 2013, when industry revenues will likely grow 4.5 percent to \$215.8 billion, the group said.

The industry "is offering what consumers want during these uncertain economic times: innovation and value," said association president and chief executive Gary Shapiro.

"Consumers' desire for connected devices is pushing projected revenues higher than originally anticipated, but the long-term health of our industry relies on a strong and growing US economy."

Sales of mobile connected devices, led by tablets, are a key factor in the growth outlook. The association said tablet sales would hit \$29.1 billion for the year, \$10.8 billion more than forecasted in January.

The association is forecasting 83 percent sales growth year-over-year in tablets and total unit sales of 68.5 million.

"Tablets are the fastest-growing product category in the history of the CE industry, and sales will continue to increase as more products hit the market, offering consumers more choices in size, price, operating systems and app ecosystems," said Steve Koenig, the association's director of industry analysis.

Smartphone unit sales are expected to grow 24 percent to 108 million units, accounting for revenue of \$33.7 billion in 2012.

The group forecasts a modest increase in laptop sales to 21.3 million units and revenues of \$14.9 billion.

Sales of networked-enabled TVs are projected to top 10 million, growing 56 percent in 2012, with revenue up 20 percent at \$9 billion.

Barclays says former lawyer to head rate-rigging probe

LONDON (AFP) - Barclays announced yesterday that a top lawyer-turned-banker would lead an independent review into the group's culture in the wake of the Libor rate-rigging scandal.

Anthony Salz, a former corporate lawyer who now sits as executive vice chairman at financial advisory group Rothschild, has agreed to head the review process, Barclays said in an official statement.

Salz is expected to publish his findings in Spring 2013, ahead of the bank's annual general meeting in June. He will report to Deputy Chairman Michael Rake, and a sub-committee of the Bar-

clays board.

"Barclays has a real opportunity to use the events of the past weeks to drive a change in its values and practices, and I look forward to hearing views on the changes that should be made," Salz said in the statement.

"I very much hope that this review will significantly assist Barclays in rebuilding trust and reaffirming its position as one of our leading institutions."

Barclays had announced earlier this month that it would establish the independent review into its business practices after the rate-rigging affair.

The London-listed bank

was recently fined £290 million (\$451 million, 371 million euros) after admitting that it attempted to manipulate the Libor and Euribor rates between 2005 and 2009.

The scandal prompted the resignation of Barclays chief executive Bob Diamond and chairman Marcus Agius, and also sparked a fierce political debate over ethics in banking.

Libor (London Interbank Offered Rate) is a flagship London instrument used as an interest benchmark throughout the world, while Euribor is the eurozone equivalent. The rates play a key role in global markets, affecting what banks, businesses and individuals pay to borrow money.

Meanwhile yesterday, the head of Britain's financial watchdog denied that regulators could have spotted bank rate-rigging, but admitted that regulation was "dangerous" and "flawed" in the run-up to the global financial crisis.

Lord Adair Turner, chairman of the Financial Services Authority (FSA), said regulators made "big mistakes" and would have to share responsibility with banks for restoring trust.

Turner, speaking in central London, added that regulators could not have stopped fixing of the inter-bank rate without "prohibitively expensive" supervision.



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Eurozone crisis darkens as Germany's top rating threatened



GERMANY, Frankfurt am Main : A display showing the German Stock Market Index DAX is seen at the stock exchange in Frankfurt am Main, western Germany, on July 24, 2012.
(AFP PHOTO)

BERLIN (AFP) - The eurozone crisis took a fresh turn for the worse yesterday after ratings agency Moody's threatened to cut Germany's coveted top credit rating amid fears the bloc's difficulties could pull it apart.

The shock decision to slash the outlook of Germany, Europe's top economy and paymaster, from "stable" to "negative" came as auditors arrived in debt-racked Greece and Spain's top finance official headed to Berlin for talks.

The news pushed Spain's borrowing costs above 7.5 percent -- well above the seven-percent mark that forced others into bailouts -- but European stocks rebounded slightly as positive Chinese data offset the Moody's bombshell.

Moody's said its decision was based on "rising uncertainty regarding the outcome of the euro area debt crisis (and the) ... increased likelihood of Greece's exit from the euro area."

Even if Greece manages to stay in the 17-member bloc, Moody's said there was "an increasing likelihood that greater collective support for other euro area sovereigns, most no-

tably Spain and Italy, will be required."

Germany's top rating could be cut, Moody's said, if Berlin needed to shore up its banks as a result of the crisis, if the bloc were to split or Germany were to see its own borrowing costs -- currently at record lows -- rise.

Policymakers raced to dismiss the action.

The head of the Eurogroup of eurozone finance ministers, Jean-Claude Juncker, immediately stressed a "strong commitment" to the bloc's stability after the warning, which also hit the Netherlands and his native Luxembourg.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

| | | |
|-------|-------|-------|
| PLOT | SAD | SIPS |
| TOFU | UTE | ODOR |
| STAT | COP | NOES |
| TAC | TBA | |
| SHINE | HOTEL | |
| LOA | SEW | BATHE |
| OWLS | DEB | SHAD |
| NEVER | BLY | ASS |
| REVEL | AETNA | |
| EGO | NNE | |
| AFAR | OAK | NABS |
| BETA | PRE | OWES |
| SEAL | SET | RENT |

| Daily Exchange Rates | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Current as of: 07/24/2012 | Currency Code | Buying rate banknotes | Buying Cheques | Selling Rate |
| U.S.A. | USD | 1.77 | 1.78 | 1.80 |
| Dutch Antilles | ANG | 98.00 | 100.00 | 100.20 |
| Canada | CAD | 1.73 | 1.75 | 1.77 |
| Britain | GBP | 2.70 | 2.75 | 2.81 |
| Switzerland | CHF | 179.06 | 179.78 | 180.58 |
| Netherlands | EUR | 213.36 | 215.31 | 217.48 |
| Sweden | SEK | 24.58 | 25.30 | 26.10 |
| Denmark | DKK | 27.97 | 28.69 | 29.49 |
| Norway | NOK | 28.23 | 28.95 | 29.75 |
| Japan (per 100) | JPY | 225.47 | 227.53 | 229.82 |

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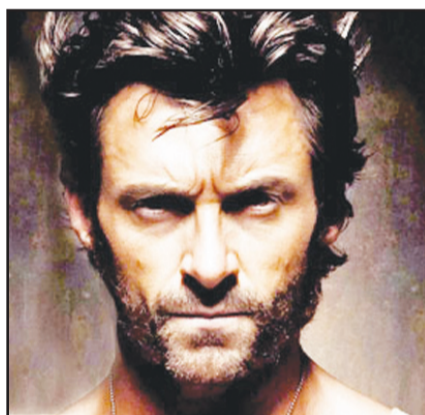


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Jackman to begin filming 'Wolverine' in Australia



SYDNEY (AFP) - Hollywood star Hugh Jackman will begin filming the next installment of his "X-Men" spin-off movies in Sydney next week, even though the female lead is yet to be confirmed.

"I am so happy to be home. To be shooting a movie of this magnitude here at home to me is one of the great privileges I've had in my career," Jackman told reporters on the set of the film.

Director James Mangold rejected reports that Jessica Biel had pulled out as the female lead at the last minute but refused to comment on who would be playing the role of the villainous mutant Viper.

"The story couldn't be more of a fantasy," Mangold said of

the reports.

"The Wolverine" sees Jackman reprise his most famous role as the superhero with metal claws and will be shot in Sydney after a Aus\$12.8 million (US\$13.2 million) dollar grant from the Australian government.

Jackman, 43, joked that Prime Minister Julia Gillard, who visited the set Tuesday, could have a role in the movie, which sees Wolverine journey to Japan.

"It's not a traditional role; it's a stunt double role for myself," he said.

"We just did a quick audition, she's incredible. I don't know if you know about her martial arts background; the movie is set in Japan and she really is very handy with the sword and with the nunchucks."

Jackman, who admitted struggling to get into shape after packing on the pounds to play Jean Valjean in "Les Misérables", said his role as Wolverine, which he first played 12 years ago, was "the backbone of my career".

"I love the character. I still love the character," he said.

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - The most recent Batman movie "The Dark Knight Rises" had the third largest opening weekend ever, despite the movie theater massacre in Aurora, Colorado, according to figures released Monday. This might have proved a marketing nightmare for the studio, and Warner Brothers, initially did not publish weekend box office figures -- a move swiftly followed by rivals, wary of offending the public. But when figures were released on Monday they showed that "The Dark Knight Rises" -- directed by Christopher Nolan -- had earned \$160.9 million in its first three days, according to Exhibitor Relations, which tracks ticket sales. The last chapter in the Batman trilogy comes behind opening weekend grosses for "The Avengers" (\$207.4 million) and the final Harry Potter movie, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, Part 2" (\$169.2 million). However both "The Avengers" and "Harry Potter" were 3-D movies, meaning the ticket prices were higher. "The Dark Knight Rises" had the most profitable weekend of any 2-D film, earning more than the \$158.4 million raked in by its 2008 trilogy predecessor, "The Dark Knight," according to industry figures. The 3-D computer-animated adventure comedy "Ice Age: Continental Drift" was second in box-office receipts, raking in \$20.4 million dollars in its second week on the big screen, according to Exhibitor Relations. Third was "The Amazing Spider-Man," starring Andrew Garfield, with \$10.8 million, followed by cheeky teddy bear comedy "Ted" with \$10 million, and Pixar studio's 3-D animated fairytale "Brave" with \$6 million.

Italian archaeologists close in on real 'Mona Lisa'

FLORENCE (AFP) - Archaeologists on Tuesday unearthed a skeleton in a rare state of preservation in Florence in what they believe may be a crucial step towards unravelling the mystery of the identity of the woman with the most enigmatic smile in the world.

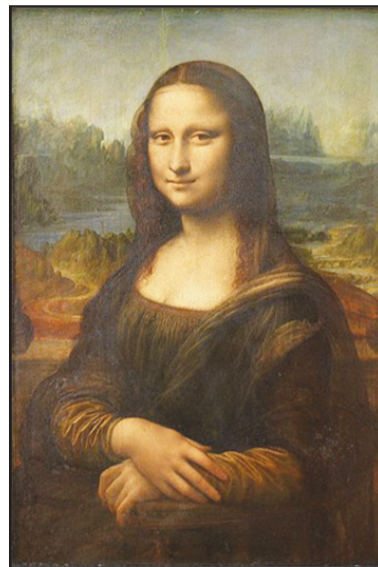
Several bodies have been discovered in the hunt to find the mortal remains of Lisa Gherardini, the Florentine noblewoman widely believed to have served as the muse for Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa".

Silvano Vinceti, who heads up the team of Italian archae-

the convent's new cement floor last year, after fresh documents confirmed that Gherardini, the wife of rich Florentine silk merchant Francesco del Giocondo, had lived in the convent after her husband died and was looked after by her two daughters who were nuns.

She was eventually interred there.

Del Giocondo is thought to have commissioned the portrait from the Renaissance artist, and though there is little proof, most art historians agree that Lisa Gherardini served as the primary model



Although the researchers had previously discovered bits of bones and two sets of remains in the convent, the latest skeleton to be unearthed is the best preserved, crucially, with the skull intact.

It also lies close to the tiny nunnery's Franciscan altar, thereby placing the grave in the right historic period.

If her identity is confirmed, the researchers will begin the two-month process of reconstructing the skeleton's face.

The true identity of "Mona Lisa" and her smile have intrigued art lovers around the world for centuries, and the archaeologists working on the digs say it is incredible to be this close to revealing one of the world's best kept secrets.



A view of the third excavation of a grave inside the medieval Convent of Saint Ursula in Florence.

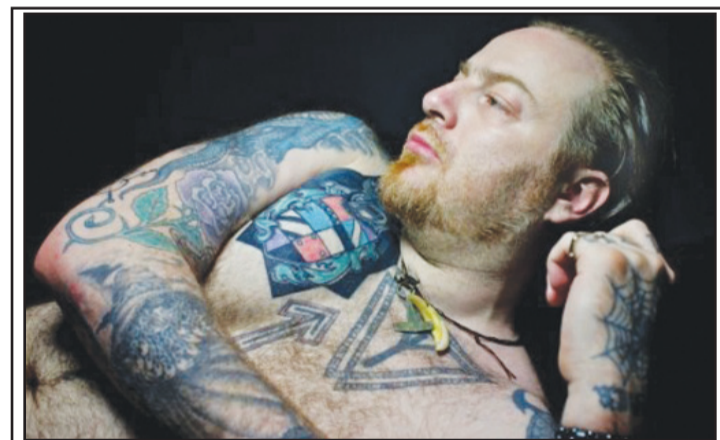
ologists, said this latest discovery in an abandoned convent was particularly exciting -- though tests would still have to be carried out to ascertain the identity of the remains.

"The culmination of all our work where we're getting close to answering the key question, 'will we or will we not find Lisa Gherardini's remains?'" "Today we opened another tomb, with a complete skeleton which is very important because in the first phase of the research we did not find human remains, they had been moved to another location," he said.

The team began digging up

for the bewitching painting.

It was composed between 1503 and 1506 and now hangs in the Louvre museum in Paris.



SAINT PETERSBURG (AFP) - Russian opera star Yevgeny Nikitin, who was forced to pull out of the Bayreuth Festival over swastika tattoos, on Tuesday insisted the images were not Nazi and he abhorred National Socialism. The statement by the bass-baritone -- published by his home opera house the Mariinsky Theatre of Saint Petersburg -- was his first reaction released in Russia to a scandal that threatens to overshadow a stellar career. Nikitin, 38, considered one of the greatest young Russian opera singers, became embroiled in scandal last week after German media showed images of his chest tattoos calling them Nazi. The prestigious Bayreuth Festival, where he was due to sing the title role in a new production of Richard Wagner's "The Flying Dutchman" on Wednesday, said that they met with Nikitin over the reports and the singer then pulled out of the production. Nikitin -- who initially called the tattoos a regrettable mistake of his youth -- said Tuesday that they had nothing to do with Nazism. The heavily-tattooed singer has never hid his tattoos or his troubled youth in the far-northern city of Murmansk.

Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers, airline pick-up

and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

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high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee. Concierge services to arrange

rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.

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Men's Wear

The renowned German fashion house of Hugo Boss has an appropriately elegant outlet in Oranjestad, where the

clothing that fits beautifully, the design house is dedicated to the arts. They have long been a sponsor of the Guggenheim Museum in New York, and since 1996, in collaboration with the museum, sponsors a bi-annual Hugo Boss Award for contemporary art.

Sculptors, painters, filmmakers have been honored to receive their coveted trophy, as stylish as their clothing lines, plus a \$100,000 cash award, during a stylish soiree welcoming a crowd of show business celebrities and New York glitterati, dressed in what else?-Hugo Boss!

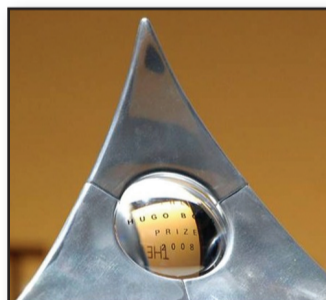
Hugo Boss is the popular choice for particular men who require superb fit and quality in their suits and women who appreciated timeless designs. Collections include modern and sophisticated Boss Black, luxurious Boss Selection, with their Made to Measure line, urban, lighthearted and trendy Boss Orange casual wear, sporty Boss Green, and the innovative Hugo line. All have fresh looks that translate easily from fashion show catwalks to street, party and business wear that fits any lifestyle. This is the fashion statement of Hugo Boss, art for real life, now on sale through the summer!



Women's Wear

quality clothing is artfully displayed, and shoppers can now enjoy great savings during their annual summer sale.

Hugo Boss Aruba has two



The coveted Hugo Boss Prize for art

stores; the main shop in the corner of the attractive mall just at the base of Caya Betico Croes is offering their latest lines; purchase one elegant garment and receive a 50% discount on a second choice. Do take time to peruse their attached outlet store, where savvy shoppers will find up to 60% off on Hugo Boss designs for men, women and children.

Hugo Boss is one of the world's most famous names for quality



Charming location in the Marguerita Mall



Summer Olympics: July 27 - August 12



Kohistani strikes blow for Afghan women



The 1992 Men's U.S. Olympic basketball team won the Gold Medal against Croatia in the Olympics held in Barcelona, Spain. The team included Larry Bird, Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson, Karl Malone, John Stockton, Patrick Ewing, Christian Laettner, David Robinson, Scottie Pippen, Clyde Drexler, Chris Mullen, and Charles Barkley; all of them are and were fantastic players.

LONDON (AFP) - While most Olympic athletes are backed by strong support in their home countries, Afghanistan's Tahmina Kohistani has encountered not just disapproval, but outright opposition.

But the 100m sprinter said her appearance at the London Olympics, as her country's only female athlete, was important not just for her, but for all women in conservative Afghanistan.

"This means a lot for me and my country. There were a lot of people who were trying to disturb me, to stop me from training, but I am here," she said on Tuesday.

"A lot of people will be watching me," she added. "Being a Muslim female athlete is most important for me."

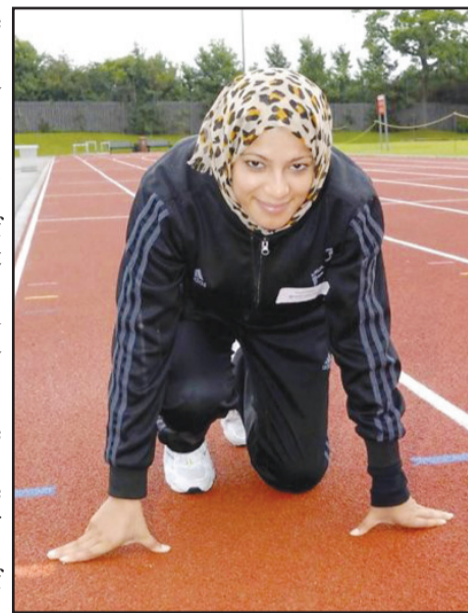
"I represent a country where

every day there are suicide bomb blasts. It is important that a girl from such a country can be here."

Kohistani, 23, from the north-eastern province of Kapisa, admits it would be a "miracle" to reach the 100m final, let alone claim a medal.

The 1.60m (five foot three) runner, instantly recognisable on the track by her traditional headscarf, has a personal best of 15.0sec -- more than four seconds slower than the late Florence Griffith-Joyner's long-standing world record.

The slow time is not sur-



prising given Kohistani comes from a country with few facilities, where many people are openly hostile to the involvement of women in sport.

She is part of a six-strong Afghan team in London including Rohullah Nikpai, whose taekwondo bronze at Beijing 2008 was the war-ravaged, deeply religious country's first ever Olympic medal.

"I know that having a medal at the Olympics is very difficult, but I am here to open a new way for the women of Afghanistan because in my society there is no sport for females," Kohistani said.

"My people do not accept sport for women, they think sport is not good for them, but my family supports me and they have no problems."

And Kohistani, who will take part in the 100m heats on August 3, holds out the faint hope that a slip-up by her rivals could open the way to a place in the final.

"It is all in the mind. The race is fast. If any of the favourites make a mistake, maybe it will be a miracle for me," she said.

Weighty issues no bother for Kiwi judo couple

LONDON (AFP) - Any man who suggests to his girlfriend she needs to lose weight is entering dangerous territory -- especially if the woman in question can throw him on his back and strangle him.

But for Jason Koster, the boyfriend and coach of Moira de Villiers, New Zealand's lone judo competitor at the London Olympics, it's all part of his job.

The judo competition is divided into strict weight categories and Koster wants de Villiers, competing in the -70kg class, to avoid the stress of worrying about beating the scales.

However, Koster insisted all was going according to

plan as far as de Villiers's London preparation was concerned, and insisted his remarks had not caused any problems in their relationship.

"That is on a professional level, not a personal one," he said Tuesday.

"Moira is fighting in the -70kg category, but she doesn't have too much to lose. It is par for the course and we have systems in place so it is not a problem."

Four weeks ago, de Villiers took part in a training camp in Barcelona where she came up against several potential Games opponents including the Netherlands' Edith Bosch, a former world champion and a silver and bronze



medallist at the last two Olympics.

And so good was her experience in Spain, de Villiers

would have no qualms about competing against of her recent training partners in London.

"I'm hoping to draw them because I did really well against most of them," said the 22-year-old de Villiers, born in South Africa but an Auckland resident for nearly a decade.

"Edith Bosch is second in the world and she was quite a difficult person because she has got the height over me. But she wasn't able to throw me but I threw her once. It was a really good confidence booster and it made me feel great about where I am."

De Villiers, asked how she felt about being the only New Zealand judoka at the Games, said: "It is only me, so there is quite a lot of pressure, but it is good to get the sport out there."



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London drafts in more soldiers for Games

LONDON (AFP) - Britain drafted another 1,200 troops Tuesday to plug a security gap at the London Olympics left by the failure of a private security firm to provide enough guards.

The deployment just three days before the opening ceremony takes the extra troops brought in for the Olympics to 4,700 after security giant G4S said it could not provide the 10,000 guards it had originally

promised.

Culture Secretary Jeremy Hunt said the numbers to be provided by G4S "continue to rise significantly" but that ministers would "leave nothing to chance" in Britain's biggest ever peacetime security operation.

In total, 18,200 soldiers are now helping to guard 10,500 competitors at the Games, alongside thousands of private guards and police.

The security issue continues to dog the Games, but Paul Deighton, the chief executive of London Games organisers LOCOG, insisted the decision to deploy the additional troops was simply a case of "changing the mix within the existing (security) plan".

The killing of 11 Israelis at the 1972 Munich Olympics in a massacre by Palestinian guerrillas has haunted every Games organisers since.

On Tuesday, the widow of one of the victims branded Olympic officials "chickens and cowards" for refusing to hold a minute's silence at the opening ceremony in London.

Rogge, meanwhile, vowed no let-up in the fight against illegal betting and doping at London 2012 as the IOC began a three-day session ahead of the Games.

He said the battles against the twin threats should also come with good and responsible governance of all sports.

"The fight against doping and illegal gambling remain the absolute priorities for the IOC," he said, pledging an increase in targeted testing and in-depth monitoring of betting patterns.

Drogba may miss Manchester Utd clash



Shanghai (AFP) - Shanghai Shenhua signing Didier Drogba may not play in his side's high-profile friendly against Manchester United on Wednesday due to a back injury, team manager Sergio Batista said.

The former Chelsea star missed a public training session on Tuesday, and Batista said he would make a final decision on Drogba's inclusion in the squad nearer to the game.

"Right now we can't say for sure because he has a back problem. We will see tomorrow," said the Argentinian.

The Ivory Coast star made his debut in China last Sunday, coming on as a second half substitute to set up his side's equalizer in a 1-1 draw away to Guangzhou R&F.

The highly-anticipated clash with United could see Drogba reunited with former Chelsea team-mate Nicolas Anelka for the first time since the pair left the English Premier League.

Drogba joined Shenhua in June on a two-and-a-half year contract reported to be worth around 200,000 pounds

(\$314,000) a week.

Batista suggested he may choose a second-string squad to play against Sir Alex Ferguson's men, saying he would rest key players in preparation for Shenhua's clash away to league leaders Guangzhou Evergrande on Saturday.

United players also appeared at the public training session and were watched by a cheering crowd of several hundred red-shirted Chinese fans.

Shenhua take on the Red Devils at the 80,000 capacity Shanghai Stadium.

MLB Standings

American League

| East | W | L | Pct | GB |
|-----------|----|----|------|------|
| YANKEES | 58 | 38 | .604 | -- |
| BALTIMORE | 51 | 45 | .531 | 7.0 |
| TAMPA | 49 | 47 | .510 | 9.0 |
| TORONTO | 48 | 47 | .505 | 9.5 |
| BOSTON | 48 | 49 | .495 | 10.5 |

| Central | W | L | Pct | GB |
|-----------|----|----|------|------|
| DETROIT | 52 | 44 | .542 | -- |
| CHICAGO | 51 | 45 | .531 | 1.0 |
| CLEVELAND | 48 | 48 | .500 | 4.0 |
| KANSAS | 40 | 55 | .421 | 11.5 |
| MINNESOTA | 40 | 56 | .417 | 12.0 |

| West | W | L | Pct | GB |
|------------|----|----|------|------|
| TEXAS | 57 | 38 | .600 | -- |
| LA ANGELES | 53 | 44 | .546 | 5.0 |
| OAKLAND | 51 | 44 | .537 | 6.0 |
| SEATTLE | 42 | 56 | .429 | 16.5 |

National League

| East | W | L | Pct | GB |
|--------------|----|----|------|------|
| WASHINGTON | 56 | 39 | .589 | -- |
| ATLANTA | 52 | 44 | .542 | 4.5 |
| NY METS | 47 | 49 | .490 | 9.5 |
| MIAMI | 45 | 51 | .469 | 11.5 |
| PHILADELPHIA | 43 | 54 | .443 | 14.0 |

| Central | W | L | Pct | GB |
|------------|----|----|------|------|
| CINCINNATI | 56 | 40 | .583 | -- |
| PITTSBURG | 54 | 41 | .568 | 1.5 |
| ST. LOUIS | 50 | 46 | .521 | 6.0 |
| MILWAUKEE | 44 | 51 | .463 | 11.5 |
| CHICAGO | 39 | 56 | .411 | 16.5 |
| HOUSTON | 34 | 63 | .351 | 22.5 |

| West | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---------------|----|----|------|------|
| SAN FRANCISCO | 54 | 42 | .562 | -- |
| LA DODGERS | 53 | 44 | .546 | 1.5 |
| ARIZONA | 48 | 48 | .500 | 6.0 |
| SAN DIEGO | 41 | 57 | .418 | 14.0 |
| COLORADO | 36 | 59 | .379 | 17.5 |

x-Clinched Playoff Spot;
y-Division Champ

Olympism is a doctrine of the fraternity between the body and the soul."

-- Pierre de Coubertin



Madame Tussauds Wax Museum in London has unveiled a new addition to its long list of celebrities. The world's fastest man, three-time Olympic gold medalist and defending champion Usain Bolt, now has his likeness there along with a host of other celebrities. Although Bolt has not yet seen the finished item, the general manager of the museum said he has seen the picture and "absolutely loved it." The wax statue is being displayed alongside those of other Olympians at the museum's newly revamped sports zone.

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Drugs cheats to be caught as never before - WADA



LONDON (AFP) - Athletes taking banned drugs at London 2012 are more likely to be detected than at any previous Olympic Games, the president of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) said Tuesday.

And John Fahey added he was already taking comfort from the fact that more than 100 athletes who could have competed at London had been caught taking drugs in the six months leading up to June.

"There has been a coherent effort to make London as clean as possible and doping athletes must be aware their chances of getting away with it are the smallest ever," said Fahey, a former Australian finance minister.

Fahey said those involved in battling the dopers faced several challenges.

"The availability of substances, the costs of anti-doping activities are just two of them," he explained.

"Then there is the re-analysis of the samples -- and also too often we catch the dopey (stupid) doper while the sophisticated one gets away."

Fahey said that he was keen for sanctions such as bans to apply to all those who'd helped athletes dope, rather than just the competitors themselves.

"One of the increasing dangers round the athletes is the sophistication of their entourage," he said. "We must see if we can punish them as they are seeking to profit from the athlete doping."

Fahey admitted there was a certain fatigue surrounding the question of the anti-doping battle but added: "Sport is a mirror image of society."

He also suggested new disciplinary measures could be put in place to punish the most severe dope cheats.

"For the most serious form of doping then the punishment could be increased from eight to 14 years," he said.

WADA are also contemplating a new clause in their revised code, due to be published in 2013, which would limit dope cheats' participation in future Olympic Games.

Such a clause could also prevent a repeat of the legal wrangle that ended with the Court of Arbitration for Sport ruling in April the British Olympic Association's lifetime Games ban for dope cheats was non-compliant with the WADA code.

That ruling paved the way for the British duo of sprinter Dwain Chambers and cyclist David Millar, both guilty of doping offences earlier in their respective careers, to compete at the London Olympics.

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Social media buzzing with ceremony 'secrets'



LONDON (AFP) - Social media was buzzing Tuesday with leaks from a rehearsal of the London 2012 Olympic Games opening ceremony, despite director Danny

Boyle's plea for spectators to "save the surprise".

Tens of thousands of spectators attended a technical rehearsal on Monday, one of the final run-throughs before Friday's £27 million (\$42 million, 34.5 million euro) spectacular.

The ceremony's artistic director, film-maker Danny Boyle, pleaded with the audi-

ence -- which included guests of the Games organisers and families of those taking part - not to leak out details about the event, which is set to be watched by billions worldwide on television.

The Twitter hashtag "savethesurprise" was emblazoned on the stadium's giant screens.

Boyle, 55, who directed the hit films "Trainspotting" and "Slumdog Millionaire", and his creative team have done their best to keep most details of the opening cere-

mony secret.

But the Oscar winner acknowledges that in the age of social media and camera phones, keeping everything under wraps will be impossible.

However, details began to emerge nonetheless as people left the run-through buzzing with excitement and taking to Twitter.

Spectators tweeted pictures of the event, some with their spare hand covering most of the action.

Organisers have already revealed that the ceremony will feature a recreation of the British countryside, including live farmyard animals.

He showed off a model layout of the set, which features a hill at one end and clouds hanging over it.

The theme of the ceremony is "Isles of Wonder", inspired by a passage from Shakespeare's comedy "The Tempest".